

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Early Intervention Committee
Face to Face Meeting

LOCATION
Anchorage, Alaska

Meeting Date
August 24-26, 2009

Attendees:

Debbie Kitelinger, Chair
Brita Bishop
Mary Dietz
Maggie Ferry
Erin Kinavey/Linda Borghols
Sharon Schumacher/Susan Steele
Amy Simpson

Community Members/Guests:

Geri Benshoof
Michelle Mc Crea

Staff:

Teresa Holt

Prepared by:
Teresa Holt

Monday, August 24, 2009

Below is a summary of each site visit:

Group A (Amy Simpson, Mary Dietz, Teresa Holt)

Anchorage School District (ASD)-Doug Gray and Anita Allen 742-3895

- ASD serves about 250 preschool students as 26 self contained sites and 50 children in community placements. They have sites specific to autism, communication and speech services. All other sites have mixed disabilities.
- ASD does 300 transitions from ILP to preschool each year. They have a community team that meets to work on transition issues. They have not yet created a system to use the ILP transition data given to them by DEED. They have a child find/transition coordinator-Paula
- ASD has a separate assessment center-EISC (early intervention services center).
- ASD has 4 new Pre-K sites at low income schools. These sites have just begun but have not talked about serving students with disabilities.
- Issues: retirement system, different eligibility for Part C and Part B, transitioning of students from C to B.
- EIC issues-why are these preschool children not integrated into community preschools? (several other communities do this successfully), research how many kids still need IEP after early intervention (ILP and preschool)

Thread - Alicia Deaver and Candace Winkler 563-2989

- Thread Connecting Early Childcare and Education to Alaska- formerly Child Care Connection
- Just became the statewide childcare resource agency with offices in Anchorage, Wasilla, Juneau and Fairbanks.
- Services to parents includes childcare referrals, parenting warm line, library, and information on other resources, AK inclusion Project-enhanced referral for parents and training for providers for children with DD/MH
- Services to providers: professional development credential courses for \$10, mini grants for training \$1000, SEED registry for early education/intervention/childcare providers listing their training, consultation services for children with behaviors (16 classrooms/500 children), advertising for job openings.
- Issues: helping children before they are kicked out of childcare, quality of early care/training for providers, living wage (can make more working at Target), turnover rate of providers 50% in one year (60% in Anchorage)

Kid's Corp Mt. View Center Headstart Preschool- Nancy Schjenken 646-7884

- 20 children of low income of many nationalities (several ESL children), 7-10 children with disabilities (consultation services from ASD). Have a waitlist of 25 children. Kid's Corp services 300 children in Anchorage. 1 teacher, 2 assistants and 1 coordinator
- Teachers and assistants are representative of the diversity of the students.

- Use the creative curriculum, have dental visits,
- Referrals from ILP, doctors, word of mouth

Group B (Debbie Kitelinger, Maggie Ferry, Michelle Mc Crea, Geri Benshoof)

Little Tykes-Dee Foster 561-0954

- Serves only children with and SED diagnosis (severe trauma or abuse), 10 children to 4 adults (including a licensed therapist)
- Group therapy-not preschool/educational-goal is to have them in preschool/childcare in 6 months to 1 year
- Able to turn around behaviors in 2-3 weeks
- 2nd step curriculum
- EIC ?s: do they provide follow up services, do they keep track of how well children do after program,
- Bill Medicaid (Denali Kid Care) and TriCare to pay for services-skill building and therapy

Little Steps Preschool-Kyle Gardner 274-3895

- Inclusive childcare and preschool for children 1-5 years, 1/3 children with MH diagnosis and 2/3 typical children. Serve 40-60 children in 10-15 classrooms.
- Therapeutic preschool services paid for thru Medicaid (Denali Kid Care) and TriCare? for day treatment. Typical Kids are paid for by their parents. Have teachers on site. Use the creative curriculum
- Issues: Lack of early childhood mental health services, have a waiting list for typical peers

Rural Cap Child Developmental Center-Lisa Goneau-Danielson 278-0068

- 30 children-19 months to 5 years, 18 children per class, childcare but uses a preschool curriculum.
- ILP does not work well with them; they refuse to provide services outside of the home.
- Funded by grants and parental fees
- Do developmental screenings, developmental profiles and ages/stages if needed.
- Very family centered-has a parent blog
- EIC issues: not familiar with Stone Soup Group

Parents, Infants and Children (PIC) –Parent Forum

- Parents want parent/play group (LEAP) to continue. Great to not have to explain to other parents about child's disability, parents can learn from each other. PIP graduate would like to take this on as her project (Kama)
- One child was almost 3 but an evaluation by the school district has not even been set. Parent did not know an evaluation must be done before age 3 and a

- plan in place if still eligible.
- Several parents stated that their doctors did not tell them about ILP. They had to ask about ILP eligibility. This is an issue that the EIC could follow up on with ILP and AILPA
- Parents want a Parent's Rights Lite training for ILP parents transitioning to preschool.

Tuesday, August 25, 2009

Review of GCDSE and ICC duties

- See power point on GCDSE and ICC duties

Reviewed 2008-2009 Work Plan

- Reviewed last year's work plan. See attachment

2009-2010 Work Plan-See attached plan

Priority 4: Preschool Survey

- Start with school district preschools, Headstart and then try to add additional community preschools that serve children with disabilities.
- Announce at Special Education Directors Conference
- For larger districts (Anchorage, Kenai, Fairbanks, Mat-Su) contact them for preschool email addresses.
- Incentive to return survey-offer free travel to Early Childhood Networking Forum
- Contact each district to see who to send it to/email each sped director to see who to send it to-by 9/15
- Create list serve for Early Childhood providers
- Need to redo survey questions

Priority 5: Early Childhood Networking Forum

- Last one was 3 years ago, tentative date is spring 2010
- Purpose is to bring together the Early Childhood community (preschool, ILP, Headstart, child care, parents, mental health)
- Idea would be each community could send a team
- 3 main presenters then have round table discussions with teams
- Ideas for presenters- Early Childhood Outcomes, Early Childhood Mental Health, Mediated Learning,
- Funding-Sharon, Paul....maybe Erin, GCDSE, Trust funding, Best Beginnings

Set meeting schedule for 2009-2010

Generally the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 9-10:30 am

- September 16th (3rd Wed)
- October 14th
- November 13th (2nd Friday)
- December 4th (1st Friday)
- January 13th

- February-during ASSEC but at a place with a phone
- March 10th
- April 21st (3rd Wednesday)
- May 12th
- June 9th
- August 11th
- September 29-October 1 Face to Face meeting in Fairbanks (Geri would like to host a dinner at her home for the group)

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

Priority 1: Student Loan Forgiveness (see attached report)

- CCRAA-not helpful because most loans have to be paid off in 10 years and this loan forgiveness begins after 10 years
- Alaska Teacher Education Loans-the group liked this option if it could be extended to Early Intervention providers
- WICHE-could this be expanded to include SLP students
- Federal Perkins Loan Teacher Cancellation-group wants more information as this may be something we should be promoting.
- Florida Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness Program-the group liked this model
- Look at a way to create a loan forgiveness program to recruit new graduates from out of state.
- Ideas of an Alaska Student Loan Program
 - Focus on providers for children 0-5 including ILP, mental health, related services who work in public service agencies (no private practice)
 - Students must live and work in Alaska for a specific time period to be eligible (5 years)
 - Not based on income so people who are currently working but need to get a degree can receive this loan.
 - For students who want a bachelor degree, masters degree or PHD
- Need to research currently programs in Alaska
 - EC masters program at UAA
 - OT program at UAA thru Creighton in Omaha
 - SLP at UAA
 - Center for Human Development
 - ILP program thru Georgetown
 - Other programs?

Priority 2 & 3: billing for ILP services for private insurance and Medicaid

- Postpone until 6/2010
- Waiting on information from the ILP cost study. The pilot information should be available soon. Implement the rest of the study-Nov-Jan
- Need to know the cost of serves before we can know what to bill
- Different costs to deliver ILP services in Anchorage where you can drive to someone's house verses services in Barrow where you have to fly to Barrow and

then travel (by river) to someone's home. This is due to a mandate that services must be provided in the natural environment (vs. clinic/office).

- Need costs for urban, rural, remote
- Medicaid regulation changes are almost complete.
- Will need EIC's assistance in approaching private insurance system.
- EIC should come with ILP to visit other states with good systems- (Massachusetts, Colorado, New Mexico, Iowa)
- When ready, EIC could help by developing talking points document and hosting community forums on the cost study.

ILP Website

Liked the new look. Prefer the label on the top of the square and the "enter here" on the bottom. Liked the bright pictures and the simpler format-makes it easier to know where to find information. Would like to see the results of the parent survey on the new website.

We also looked at the old website and have a few comments to offer.

- The main comment for the website is that it is too deep, meaning it takes too many clicks to get to the information.
- It is too difficult to find the contact information for local programs. Would like to see a map people can click on that will lead them to the local agency (or put in zip code).
- Keep the information on where to go if your child is over 3 years old.
- The group liked the statistics section and liked the new red/yellow/green light format.
- Under the resources section: suggestion to organize by question (i.e. what if my child is over 3 years old, where can I find services if my child has a developmental disability/autism/down syndrome/hearing/vision/FAS/TBI, etc; Where can I find information on my parental rights? What should I do if I am not getting the services I think my child needs? (and any other questions parents might ask).
- Also the resources need to be updated (i.e. CCC is not Thread). Could add AYFN and community mental health centers (or people who do EC mental health) as resources.
- Liked the sections that described what the link was (Early childhood and Early intervention resource sections)-may parents don't know what different things are.
- In each section we would like to see the resources under two headings: Alaskan resources and national resources.

ILP Brochures

Linda handed out the *Parents are Often the First to Know* (brochure and poster), *If you are concerned about a child's development don't wait* and *Baby Stages/Preschool Stages* wheels. Comments included: liked the photos, liked the helping hand, liked that the message gives parents power to say something.

- The EIC would like to hand these out at the next Council meeting.
- Stone Soup should have these to hand out to parents.

- EIC should see if the “You Know Me” money could be used to do ads in local papers with the poster.
- Local ILPs have them and are distributing them.
- They should be in all doctors’ offices, CASA volunteers, etc

Stepping Ahead brochure

- No acronyms-it is too hard for parents to remember if it is a new term for them. Also no “Part C”-Should be provider or Infant Learning Programs. No “FSC” just use the word “provider”.
- Larger print
- On page 4-5 there should be a timeline at the top/bottom and lines that link to each box. It is difficult to tell it is a progression.
- Page 5 the box “by your child’s third birthday...” should be changed to read “Your school will have completed your child’s evaluation, determined if they are eligible for preschool services. If they are eligible for services, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) should be completed and services begun.
- Suggested moving pages 14-15 behind page 9
- Add AYFN and LINKS Parent Resource Center to last page under additional information.

OSEP Monitoring

Office of Special Education Programs is coming the first week of October to review Alaska’s ILP state program. The ICC has been asked to write a report on the following questions by Sept 15th. The group reviewed the following questions for the monitoring visit (answers are bulleted):

1. How do you advise and assist the lead agency in the identification of the sources of fiscal and other support for services for early intervention programs, assignment of financial responsibility to the appropriate agency and the promotion of the interagency agreements?
 - Alaska’s Kids Can’t Wait advocacy campaign-data gathering, talking points. Medicaid and private insurance billing for ILP services, workforce development-student loan forgiveness program, keeping HSS commissioner informed on GCDSE activities, support ATTI which works on functional interagency agreements. Member of IECCC-interagency early childhood coordinating council
2. Describe the collaborative efforts with the state educational agency regarding the transition of toddlers with disabilities to preschool and other appropriate services.
 - The council helped to start and continues to support the Alaska Transition Training Initiative. EIC includes both DEED and SEA members, MOA between DEED and lead agency
3. Describe your participation in advising and assisting the lead agency in the preparation of the IDEA application and the development of and/or revisions to policies and procedures.

- Review and comment on the completed application
 - Review and comment on the indicators annually and give feedback to the lead agency
 - Review and comment on the APR
 - Council provides comments on federal-need to update Part C federal regulations
 - Participate on lead agency regulation committee
 - Review policy changes by lead agency
 - Personnel development committee and workforce development efforts, one of our priorities
4. What is your involvement in the preparation and submission of the annual report to the Governor and the Annual Performance Report on the status of early intervention programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families operated by the State?
- Review and comment on the report, suggest changes for state improvement activities, have a committee to review
 - Review and comment indicators monthly and give feed back to the lead agency, review and give comment parent survey
5. Does the council Advise and assist the lead agency and the State educational agency regarding the provision of appropriate services for children birth through age 5?
- Assisting with planning Early Childhood networking forum. Teams of EC training together
 - Assist planning for ASSEC to include EC training
 - Participation in the Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Childhood
 - ATTI
6. Does the council advise appropriate agencies in the State with respect to the integration of services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and at-risk infants and toddlers and their families, regardless of whether at-risk infants and toddlers are eligible for early intervention services in the State?
- EIC Long term goal is to change eligibility for ILP to be the same as preschool services.
 - Have Headstart (state and local level), AILPA, lead agency, board of education rep on EIC
 - IECCC member (list participants)
 - Supported PAT expansion bill

ILP Data system

Linda passed out the “Key Performance Indicators for ILP with Part C Children. She explained the red (below 90%), yellow (90%-94%) and green (95% or above) light system. The white circles mean that provider had no children in that indicator area. This information will be up on the ILP website each quarter.

Welcome from the Chair

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.